



Rule Up For Discussion and Possible Filing

Proposed New Section
WAC 230-04-208
Problem gambling fee.

ITEM 16 (a) on the August 13, 2004, Commission Meeting Agenda.	Statutory Authority 9.46.070
Who proposed the rule change?	
Staff.	
Why is this rule change needed?	
<p>Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2459, Supplemental Budget Fund Transfer, passed during the 2004 Legislative Session. The bill was to remove \$3 million from the Commission's budget, with \$500,000 of that amount directed to problem gambling treatment programs, if another bill passed (HB 2776). The Commission sent a letter to the Governor supporting problem gambling, but opposing the fund transfer. In the end, \$2.5 million was transferred from the Gambling Revolving Fund; however, the Governor vetoed the transfer of \$500,000 for problem gambling and requested the Commission consider its contributions to problem gambling. The Commission recently authorized an additional \$150,000 for problem gambling training and awareness services in fiscal year 2005.</p> <p>Staff drafted the following rule on behalf of the Commission. At this time, the target is to collect approximately \$200,000 each year from licensees to contribute to problem gambling helpline, training and awareness services as authorized under RCW 9.46.071. The proposed rule would provide a stable funding source and raise approximately \$232,000 for use toward these services.</p> <p>The proposed problem gambling fee would be assessed on licensed charitable/nonprofit and commercial organizations, not individual licenses. It is not economical to collect a fee from individuals, as the fee would be \$1-\$2 and it would cost the agency much more than that to process the fee.</p> <p><u>Attachment:</u> RCW 9.46.071 Information for compulsive gamblers. Letter from Governor Locke dated April 1, 2004 (see page 4).</p>	
Statements against the proposed rule change.	
None at this time.	
Which licensees will be directly impacted?	
Licensed commercial and charitable/nonprofit organizations.	
What are the potential impacts to the agency?	
Impact to process fees collected. Offsets the need for additional cuts in the agency's budget to fund problem gambling services.	
Staff recommendation.	
File for further discussion.	
Proposed effective date.	
June 30, 2005.	